



Potters Guild of British Columbia

1359 Cartwright St., Granville Island
Vancouver, B.C. V6H 3R7
(604) 683-9623

NEWSLETTER

MAY 1989

ISSN 6319 812X

JAPAN FOCUS '89

To celebrate its one hundredth year in Vancouver, the Consulate General of Japan is sponsoring a series of events from June to September which are organized to promote better understanding and appreciation of Japanese culture and customs.

The Potters' Guild of B.C. and the Emily Carr College of Art and Design are participating in several of these events. In addition to the ceramic workshop with Yu Fujiwara, an exhibition of traditional arts and crafts of Japan will be shown at ECCAD's Concourse Gallery from June 23 to July 16. A public demonstration of pottery making will be given by Yu Fujiwara on Sunday, June 11th at 2 pm. in the Concourse Gallery of Emily Carr College. Other locations are hosting other activities; watch the papers.

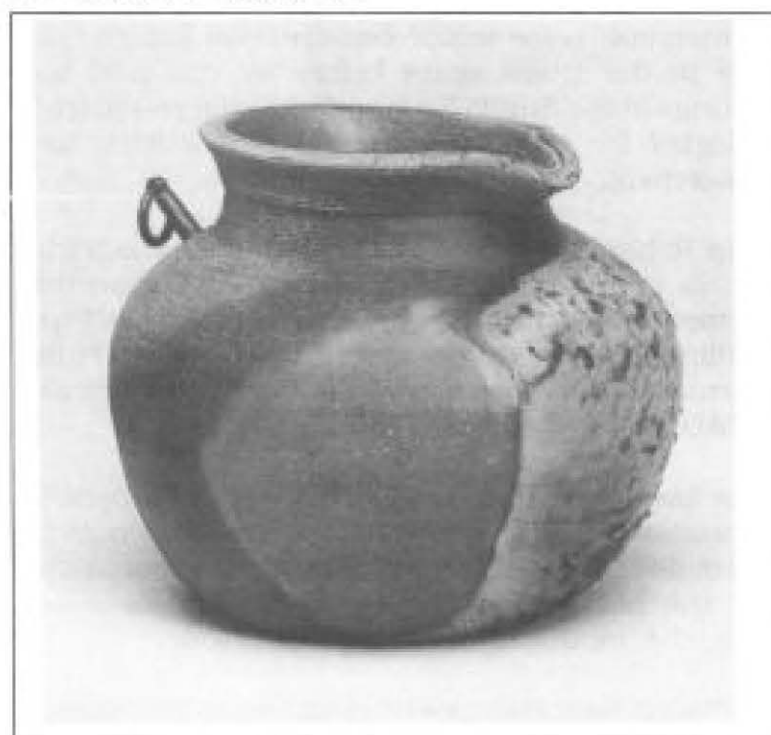
The Potters' Guild is grateful to the Japanese Consulate for the opportunity to take part. The workshop with the Bizen master, Yu Fujiwara, will be held at the Ceramic Department of the Emily Carr College on Monday and Tuesday, June 12 and 13, from 9:30 am-4:30 pm. Mr. Fujiwara will present a throwing demonstration, discuss colouring and firing techniques, give a series of slide presentations, and offer some insights into the philosophy of Bizen traditions and its present-day context. This workshop is offered to the Guild membership at no cost, thanks to the Consulate, but we do need to have some idea of the number of you who intend to take part!

On the back page of the Newsletter is a form to send in to the Guild office; alternately, please phone the office to let us know if you're coming, as numbers are limited.

In browsing through back-issues of the Newsletter, I found an interesting account (Sept. '84) by Rita Rowbotham of her April '84 ceramic tour of Japan. She noted, "...amongst the many things I have learned (of the principles of Japanese pottery), there are two that may be of interest. Firstly, Japanese pottery has a large traditional element. Styles are often replicated through generations, and this contrasts sharply with the marked individuality of much North American pottery. Secondly, there is an empha-

sis on functional pottery, and this is carried to a logical conclusion whereby pieces are not properly evaluated in isolation in their own right. They are considered bereft without their context, or more accurately, their use. A vase needs its flower arrangement, and the tea bowl its green tea. Without them, they are, according on one master potter, just pieces of stone." This may not be new to most of you, but it's an attitude that is too easily forgotten in so many aspects of our lives. You will find, on page 5, a statement by Yu Fujiwara himself on his relationship to his work.

I am sure you will find the two days a fascinating and informative experience and hope you will be able to take part. As a formal closing to the sessions, and in a sense, to this season's activity, the Guild is holding a reception for Mr. Fujiwara, after the workshop, and early in the evening of Tuesday, June 13th, at the home of Jean Fahrni. Jean has kindly agreed to host us, providing we are willing to do the work! So I am calling on you to come forward. More details to follow in the June newsletter.



Bizen Ware
Yu Fujiwara

The Potters Guild of B.C. NEWSLETTER

is published 10 times a year. Submissions are welcome, and should be in the Guild office by the last Friday of the month. Material may be edited for publication.

Managing Editor: Jan Kidnie (Jorgenson).

Editorial Committee: Bob Kingsmill, Laurel McGregor, Hiro Urakami, Nathan Rafla, Anne Fleetham.

Mailing: Rosemary Amon, Jobst Froberg, Jackie White.

Advertising rates: \$75.00 full page; \$40.00 half page; \$25.00 quarter page; business card \$15.00; classified \$5.00 for 3 lines; additional lines \$2.00 each. All ads must be prepaid.

The Potters Guild of B.C. meets* the fourth Wednesday of every month. Membership in the Guild is \$20.00-individuals, \$30.00-groups, January to January. See application form elsewhere in this issue.

Board of Directors: Sam Kwan, Pres., Tam Irving, Vice-Pres.; Nathan Rafla, Secretary; Kathryn Youngs, Treas.; Theota Dancer, Bob Kingsmill, June MacDonald, D'Arcy Margesson, Cherie Markiewicz, Elsa Schamis, Terry Ryals & Ron Tribe.

Notes from a Weekend Workshop (and it wasn't Malaspina)

For the sun and the company and the clay, I would like to have been a part of the good turnout at Malaspina last weekend. Instead, I spent ten very intense hours from Friday night through Saturday afternoon at the new downtown Simon Fraser campus at a workshop entitled "Board Development in Context: A Professional Development Workshop for Cultural Trustees and Senior Staff". It was sponsored by the Assembly of B.C. Arts Councils and something called the NICA Institute, of which our leader, Rory Ralston, is a founding member. I went with some degree of trepidation, a little concerned that this was going to be a "dull as dish-water" session, when what I really wanted to be doing was working in my garden.

The nuts and bolts of it aside, cultural trusteeship is not something I've given much thought to before. However, Rory Ralston, on leave as the Director of Education for the Alberta Department of Culture, presents the issues and the philosophic approaches to the subject in a fascinating and compelling fashion.

I hope that it may be possible for Mr. Ralston, or one of his trainees, to some day make a presentation to the Guild, the Board or the membership as a whole. Rory is a collector of "graffiti", and I pass on two. One of them shook me up as editor of this Newsletter, "Sharing information is not good enough", and finally, from the poet Shelley, "Artists are the unacknowledged legislators of the world".

Jan Kidnie

GUILD NEWS

Meeting location is in the process of being solved; at the moment, some minor construction has to take place in the studio space before we can hold our meetings in the Studio 5 area. We'll keep you posted! Apologies for the premature April newsletter announcement.

Philip Robbins, the person working in Studio 5 this year, is taking an opportunity to go to Japan this summer, and fortunately for all concerned, Lea Price is willing and able to take over that space until Philip returns. Lea has been a recent student in ceramics at ECCAD.

At its last several meetings, the Board has been in discussion on the subject of a major exhibition, to be held in 1990. Jim Thornsbury is agreed to coordinate, with the Board's cooperation and planning assistance, the mounting of such an exhibition.

The Board has also moved to increase the annual Award program funding from \$50 to \$100 per award, and to expand the program to B.C. colleges a little further afield than just the Lower Mainland.

Reminder

Library is open until July, Fridays 10a.m. - 4 p.m., and books may be returned to the Gallery during their hours 10:30 - 5:30 daily through the summer.

News

Congratulations to **Kinichi Shigeno**! His "O"-shaped coffee pot has been selected to enter the 46th International Competition of Art Ceramics in Faenza, Italy. This year, 189 works were selected from 2188 entries.

9th Annual Northwest International Competition, June 9th - August 6th, Whatcom Museum, Bellingham, WA. Call Guild office for info.



Gallery of B.C. Ceramics
1359 Cartwright St. Granville Island
Vancouver BC, Canada
(604) 669-5645 V6H 3R7

GALLERY SCHEDULE

A Gentle Touch: Graeme Allemeersch and Anne Bolivar. Both are graduates of the Nova Scotia College of Art Design. Graeme will present his latest dynamic, hand-built vessels, while Anne will have sculptural, figurative pieces. Opening May 8th, 7:30-9:30 pm., until May 28th.

Throughout the summer, the Gallery Shop will be focussing on the work of all its juried members work.

June 15th and August 15th are the next juring deadlines for new Gallery work. Call the Manager, Coralie Triance, at 669-5645 for further information.

GALLERY REVIEW

April's show, "Harmony of Opposites", featured the work of Lynda Chelak and Melissa Searcy, whose works are somewhat reversals of each other. Chelak puts colorants into her clay, or uses underglazes in a skillful, painterly fashion. She inlays cut, colored clay pieces, while Searcy adheres irregular, (over)glazed strips to the outside of her pieces. In turn, the abstract expressionistic wall pieces and free-standing sculptural pieces of Chelak contrast nicely with Searcy's organic, somewhat erotic, cylindrical vases. The former work tends to being flat, while the latter is more full-bodied.

The combination of their work displayed their particular sensibilities that, although opposite, were excellent. The blues and purples in Chelak's pieces resonated in Searcy's similarly glazed vases, and the irregular edges of each others work were quite complementary.

The current show, "The Way We See It: Two Europeans", features the work of Daniel Materna and Zuzana Vacek. Both are from Czechoslovakia and graduates of specialized schools in ceramics and textiles respectively, and have worked and exhibited internationally.

Materna principally offered raku pieces and a few smaller works. Intricate, multi-faceted sculptural vases were interesting from every side, while the granular finished plates had a fascinating texture. His "broken" pieces were vases and plates whose fragments had been separately raku- or pit-fired and reassembled to create a rich mosaic.

In contrast were Vacek's painted works that were

almost folk-art-like. Her small paintings on paper had the same flatness of perspective as her included large applique fabric "painting". And skilfully she painted festive, pastoral scenes on the whimsical old trailers Materna created, with their TV antennas. On the oval vases she painted moody, flowered fields that sometimes seemed surreal—a piano in a field. The square painted plates were good backdrops to spiffy cadillac and trailers.

Between the "two Europeans", a rich artistic direction was revealed.



Daniel Materna • Zuzana Vacek

WORKSHOPS & SUMMER SCHOOLS

The Langham Cultural Society is **calling for proposals** from visual and performing artists wishing to present workshops at their **KASLO-on-the-Lake Summer School of the Arts**. The school is located on Kootenay Lake and the workshops will be held August 12-August 25, 1989. Contact Langham Centre, Box 1000, Kaslo, B.C., V0G 1M0, or phone 353-2661.

The Ontario Clay and Glass Association sponsors **WORKSHOP IN THE CITY**, to be held May 26-28, at New College, University of Toronto, with internationally-known guest ceramic artists Everett Busbee and Jeff Oestreich. For further information, check the Guild bulletin board or phone on Fridays. Toronto info. number is 416-923-7406.

EMILY CARR COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN is offering two ceramic courses this summer.

Steve Heinemann will give a sculpture course, investigating making and thinking in clay as a medium for the imagination, from July 3rd to 21st; and **Rebecca Rupp** from Montreal will instruct in concepts and techniques of wheel-thrown porcelain table ware, including glazing and firing techniques, from July 24th to August 11th. Tuition fee for each is \$160; studio fee is additional \$60 or \$65. For further details, contact the Ceramic Department at Emily Carr, 687-2345.

PLACE DES ARTS, 1120 Brunette Ave., Coquitlam V3K 1G2, (416) 526-2891, offers a **Kiln Building Workshop** with **Andrew Wong**, on July 10th, 10 am - 4 pm at Place des Arts, July 11-13 in Port Moody, and July 20. Participants in this course will learn about reduction firing and kilns, and will assist in the building of a natural-gas fired kiln. They will receive plans of this kiln and have the opportunity to have some of their own work fired at the end of the course. Registration Fee is \$100, with an optional lab fee of \$5 for a bisque firing at Place des Arts and use of cone 10 galzes. June 15 is last date for registration, which is limited. Call the centre for further information. Registration forms are also available at the Guild office.

The **Fraser Valley Potters' Guild** is sponsoring a workshop on **Low-fire Salt Kiln Building** with **Connie Glover** on June 10. Call Josie Stead at 462-9324 for further information.

KWANTLEN COLLEGE offers a two-week clay course on the **raku process** with **Jeannie Sarich** in May. Schedule is Tuesdays and Thursdays, May 16, 18, 23,

and 25, 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm, and Saturdays, May 20 and 27, 10:00 am to 6:00 pm. Call Continuing Education, Surrey Campus for further details.

Ruth Duckworth is presenting a workshop for the **Oregon Potters Association** on June 24th and 25th, near Salem, Oregon. Call Craig Martell at 363-7486 in Salem.

Metchosin International Summer School of the Arts, 911a Linden Ave., Victoria, V8V4G8, (604)384-1698 offers a **Ceramics : Glaze and Color Development** two-week program with **Robin Hopper** at the Pearson College, July 23rd-August 5th. Fees are \$225, materials \$50, and residence available at additional cost at the college.

Walter Dexter is giving a weekend workshop on **Raku pottery: surfacing and firing**, July 29 and 30, also as part of the summer school. Call Elizabeth Travis at the above number for details.

Red Deer College in Alberta offers **Series '89**, interesting 4-day courses with 10 ceramic artists, including Annemarie Schmid Esler, Walter Ostrom and Denys James, over the period July 3rd to August 4th. Call the College at (403) 342-3516.

FIRED UP! offers a workshop in sculptural ceramics with **Chuck Wissinger**, head of the Ceramics Program at Red Deer College in Alberta, on Saturday and Sunday, June 3rd and 4th, from 10 am - 4 pm at Camosun College in Victoria. Fees are \$40, \$20 for students. Phone Arlene Yarnell at 474-2697, evenings, or 474-2676 during the day for further information. Address: Box 7, Matheson Lake Road, RR# 2, Victoria, B.C. V9B 5B4

CONNECTIONS AND ALTERNATIVES, an International Ceramic Seminar is presented by Leisure Learning Services at the Alberta College of Art, Calgary, on May 26, 27, and 28. Featured faculty include Robert Archambeau, Sally Barbier, Dennis Evans, Anne Hironelle, Harlan House, Paul Mathieu, Karen Pavey, Jane Peiser, and Rudy Turk. Continuous demonstrations, tours, films and lectures, and a reception/dance are included in the \$115 fee (before May 1st) \$145 after May 1. Contact Evelyn Grant, (403) 229-9408.

The **Nechako Valley Summer School of the Arts Society**, P.O. box 1489, Vanderhoof, B.C. V0J 3A0, offers a series of workshops from July 17 to August 13. Ceramic instructors are **Laura Wee Lay Laq**, July 24-29, and **Anita DeLong**, August 1-2. Registration deadline June 16. Call 567-3030.

Bizen and I

Bizen ware is unique among world potteries. There is no other that can be traced back for over one thousand years of uninterrupted history. Amazing as this is, it is equally remarkable that it is made, and has always been made, adding no glaze at all. The fire that conceives its fascinating markings is made with pinewood alone.

How is it possible that Bizen has had such an impressive history? How is it possible that potters have never flagged for even a moment in all those one thousand years to produce wares from this somber clay without adding glaze? The answer lies in its naive simplicity and manly grace.

At first glance, one may feel that Bizen ware has a very dark complexion; that its colors are too subdued. But when flowers are placed in a Bizen container or fruit is arranged on a platter shaped therefrom, the Bizen generates a complementary beauty which enhances the flowers or fruit while inviting attention to its own inherent charms as if it had a heart and soul of its own. Its especial beauty is brightened with dazzling yet still subtle fascination by moistening the ware with water.

We, who pot with Bizen clay have much time-consuming and pains-taking work before the clay can be thrown on the wheel or otherwise fashioned. To obtain it, we dig to the bottom of the rice paddies, three to five meters deep. There, ten centimeters or so below, lies the raw clay. This is dug out with our hands and exposed to wind and rain for about one year in order to season it. It is then crushed into small pieces with a tool that looks like an iron hammer and soaked in water. What results is placed in a biscuit receptacle and the watery residue is gradually absorbed. When it has hardened somewhat, tiny pebbles and other impurities are removed with our finger tips.

This done, the clay is tread upon with our feet and kept in an underground cellar for about two years. Then, well seasoned, the clay is ready for the potter to throw or mold to his will. Thus it takes three or four years seven to prepare the clay.

When the potter has shaped his pots and pieces and the firing has begun, it takes twelve days to complete it. Around the clock the pine wood must be fed to the fire to build up and maintain the 1300 degrees of heat needed before Bizen ware is born. To accomplish this, ten tons of pine wood are consumed. One feels like fainting and becomes dizzy before it is over with. All the most for this hard work, a burning desire to fight arises with me, challenging me to make better, always more desirable Bizen ware.

Yes, such a man am I. Each one of the works reproduced here, I have chosen from among those which I have made during the past twenty years to demonstrate the path I have taken in achieving my goal. I am only forty-six years old now. At such an age, I am still very young. Even so, in looking through this book of my works, I am able to reflect on the nature of what I have accomplished. I am confident that I will never release my grip on the magic of Bizen clay, even as I grasp it now. No matter how hard it may be or how old I might become, I am confident that I will be able to continue making pottery with all my heart and soul.

I think that pottery should not be a mere implement. Before it is that, it should a transfiguration of myself; my joy, my sorrow, my tenderness or harshness. My helpless wistfulness should be felt in the pottery I make. Only then should it become an object with a life of its own.

How splendid the beauty of Bizen ware is, forever imprinted with the fire's markings, the madly dancing flames of the fire which has burned so intensely for such a long time. It is staggering to think that once man has developed a passion for Bizen ware, he is stunned by the thought that he has become a drug addict. Is there any other pottery than Bizen which drives a man to such a degree of madness?

Yu Fujiwara

(reprinted from "Yu Fujiwara: Bizen", Japan, 1979)

EXHIBITIONS

Fired Up!, a special weekend event in its fifth year, showcases the work of 13 B.C. ceramic artists and two special guests, **Chuck Wissinger** from Alberta and **Robin Righton** from Victoria. Metchosin Community Hall, west of Victoria and Colwood on Metchosin Road, May 27 and 28, 10 am - 5 pm. 474-2676 for further information

"Clay Forms", ceramic sculpture by Pat McCormick, is on show at the **Whatcom Museum of History and Art**, 121 Prospect St., Bellingham, from May 20 to August 13.

North Park Gallery, 1619 Store St., Victoria, to May 20, Harry Stanbridge, paintings, and Linda Stanbridge, raku;

The Side Street Studio, 1503 Fell St., through May, Art Brendon, Robin Righton, Bas Cobanli, Pat Webber, and Walter Dexter.

Charmian Johnson has a show of her drawings at the **Vancouver Art Gallery**, 750 Hornby, until June 5th.

Terra Cotta, 3610 West 4th Ave., Vancouver, showcases work by Vincent Massey through June.

Pitt Int'l Gallery, 36 Powell, Vancouver, has work by Elaine Brewer-White on exhibition, May 15 to June 3rd.

At the **Cartwright Gallery** from May 19 to June 18 is "Folk Art of Turkey", originating at the International Gallery in San Diego.

Artcraft '89, Salt Spring Island's Community Arts Council's annual sale, opens June 9th, from 11 am-5 pm daily, thru til September 4, at the Mahon Hall in Ganges. Contact Kishori Hutchings, 537-9334.

UNCLASSIFIED

For Sale: Olympic Electric Kiln. Cone 8, 7 cu.ft. Shelves and some kiln furniture. \$650.00 Call Joanne at 980-7428.

For Sale: Shimpo Wheel. Never used! \$900.00 Call Dennis at 291-2968.

Six Bucks a Box! Seattle Pottery Clay, Vashon Buff, Limited Quantity. Call Ian at 432-9115.

For Sale: Amaco Pug Mill. New, cost over \$2000. Asking \$1500. Never used Call Ron at 421-7343.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

The **Sunshine Coast Arts Council** will be holding its **Second Annual Summer Craft Faire** on August 5th & 6th, 1989, in Hackett Park, Sechelt, B.C.

To enter, please submit slides or photos or work to be sold, including name, address, phone number, and an \$80.00 post-dated cheque (May 16, 1989) to cover registration fee and two-day space rental. Mail to: Summer Craft Faire '89, c/o Sunshine Coast Arts Council, Box 1565, Sechelt, B.C., V0N 3A0. Submissions deadline is May 1st, with Jury Selection May 16th. For further information, write to above address, or call Elaine Futterman, 885-2395.

Harrison Festival of the Arts, Harrison Hot Springs, B.C., will hold their Annual Juried Craft Market, July 1-3, and July 8 & 9, and are looking for interested artists to meet the May 12th application deadline. Call Lisa Douglas at the Harrison Festival Office, (604) 796-3664.

Folkfest Craft Fair 1989, sponsored by the North Vancouver Community Arts Council, is seeking participants. The fair will be held June 15 to 24, except Sunday, at the Civic Plaza at 14th and Lonsdale. Deadline for application is May 26th; call the Arts Council at 988-6844 for details.

*****Final Days***** on Distributor Close-out Sale. Save to 50% & more!

***Equipment** (used), kiln shelves, posts, pyrometers, shelving, rolling carts, tables, benches, compressor, 100 gal. mixer etc.

***Harrison Bell underglazes, glazes, non-firing stains to 50% off-4oz., pts. & gal. 4oz. cone 6 glazes (reg. \$2.95) \$1.48 ea.**

***Overglazes to 50% off. *Medmar Liq. Bright Gold- \$9.99 2gm. (per \$25 net purchase of H. Bell products. \$14.95 w/o. Limit 2 per customer)**

***Bell cones (small), 60/box- \$4.99**

***Brushes to 50% off.**

***SPS clays, 50lb.s from- \$11.99.**

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OPPORTUNITIES

DESIGNED FOR PRODUCTION : MADE FOR USE

The **Cartwright Gallery** is planning an exhibition on production crafts in Canada to travel to Canadian galleries and museums in 1990. A proposed illustrated exhibition catalogue will assess craft marketing in Canada, and will profile makers and their approach to designing and producing multiples of functional objects. May 31 is the deadline for submissions. To receive a call for entries form, call or write Cartwright Gallery, 1411 Cartwright St., Granville Island, Vancouver, V6H 3R7, (604) 687-8266.

9th Annual Spring Craft Fair, May 26-28, 1989, Crystal Garden, Victoria. Booths and consignment shop. For information, contact Bente Rehm, PO Box 5685, Stn. B., Victoria, V8R 6S4, or call 381-5123.

PARKE INTERNATIONAL MARKETS now accepting applications for their 1989 craft markets at Whistler, Kamloops, VanDusen Gardens, Vancouver, etc., Write or call for more info: 3257 W. 36th Ave., Vancouver, B.C., V6N 2R6, or 604-362-2363.

Canadian Craft Show Scholarship: This \$750 scholarship is for a craftsperson working in any medium who wishes to pursue further education at an advanced level. Open to all craftspeople who are residents in Canada. For more info: Ontario Crafts Council, 122 St. Patrick St., Toronto, Ontario, or call 416-977-3551.

CAPILANO COLLEGE, 2055 Purcell Way, North Vancouver, V7J3H5, offers its two-year diploma program in Clay and Textile Arts, incorporating credit courses in clay and textiles, drawing, design, visual literacy, marketing and promotion, and a certificate program in Crafts Instructors Training. Interviews for this program will be held May 23-26 and August 22-25. Call 984-4911 for information.

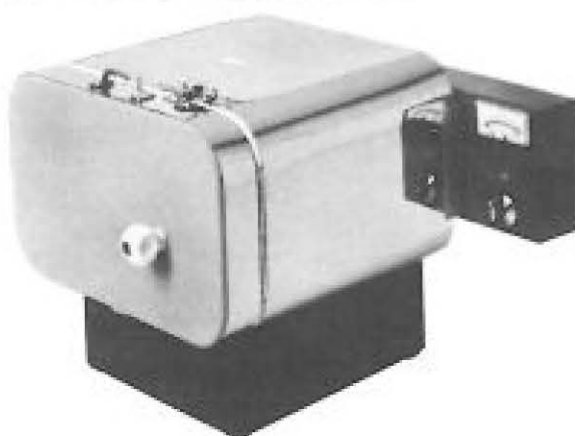
The Atlin Centre for the Arts offers its summer courses, "Visual Workout", June 13 to July 4th, and "Concept and the Creative Process", July 11 to August 8th. Registration deadline is June 1, 1989. Contact the Centre office at 19 Elm Grove Avenue, Toronto, M6K 2H9, (416) 536-7971, for a brochure, or drop by the Guild office.

INSURANCE: The Potters Guild last fall arranged with Mutual of Omaha for an insurance package, covering such options as extended health care, hospital plus cash, long-term disability, etc, to be offered to our membership.

If you're an interested new member, and have yet to hear from M. of O., give them a call at their Richmond office.

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KILNS.....

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VICTORIA DAY HOLIDAY:

CLOSED: Saturday, May 20th.
Sunday, May 21st.
Monday, May 22nd.

Please remember that we close on Saturdays during July and August.

9548-192nd St. Surrey
Phone: 888-3411

- () Membership Application
() Membership Renewal
() Change of Address

Mail to:
The Potters Guild of B.C.
1359 Cartwright St.
Vancouver, B.C. V6H 3R7

Name: _____

Address: _____

City & Province: _____

Postal Code: _____ Tel: _____

I enclose my cheque/money order in the amount of \$
(Fees: Individual: \$20/year, Group: \$30/year)

Yes, I want to attend the Yu Fujiwara workshop, June 12-13 and the reception following, June 13, 4:30 p.m.

Name _____

Address _____

_____ Phone _____